

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

UNCLAS STATE 004845

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, NI, AO

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT REPLY TO NIGERIAN ATTACK ABOUT ANGOLA

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT PREPARED BY AF AND READ TO PRESS BY
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING JANUARY 8: QUOTE:
THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF NIGERIA TO PUBLISH A PERSONAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE HEAD OF STATE OF
NIGERIA. THE ATTACK WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE RELEASE IS
COMPLETELY UNWARRANTED.

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CONDUCTING DISCUSSIONS ON
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ANGOLA WITH NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVES OVER A PERIOD OF SOME

WEEKS. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN MARKED BY THE MUTUAL RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP AND CANDOR WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED OUR RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA. IN FACT, ALTHOUGH OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN IN COMPLETE ACCORD ON THIS SUBJECT, WE CONSIDER THAT THERE HAS BEEN A LARGE AREA OF COMMON AGREEMENT.

WE REJECT THE UNJUSTIFIED ACCUSATIONS DIRECTED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. BUT WE ARE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY THE GRATUITOUS IMPUGNING, IN HIGHLY INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE, OF UNITED STATES MOTIVATIONS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH HAD NEVER

BEEN MENTIONED BY NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WHATEVER DISAGREEMENTS WE MAY HAVE ON THIS QUESTION THE UNITED STATES HAS SOUGHT, IN ITS APPROACH TO THE ANGOLAN QUESTION, TO SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES--NON-INTERVENTION AND SELF-DETERMINATION--WHICH ARE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE, AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAU CONCILIATION COMMISSION. PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER WAS SIMPLY A RESTATEMENT OF THE U.S. POSITION WHICH WAS WELL-KNOWN TO THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. UNQUOTE.

2. SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED IF THE STATEMENT WAS AN INFERENCE THAT THE TEXT PUBLISHED IN LAGOS WAS CORRECT. HE REPLIED: "YES, THAT IS CORRECT. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS SAID THAT IT IS BASICALLY CORRECT."

3. FOLLOWING ARE OTHER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH TOOK PLACE:

QUESTION: COULD YOU AMPLIFY THE ONE PARAGRAPH THAT APPEARS TO HAVE ATTRACTED ALL THIS NIGERIAN IRE AND THAT IS THE NEXT TO THE LAST PARAGRAPH WHICH SAYS THAT " WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, STAND IDLY BY IF THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION PERSISTS." WHAT WERE YOU MEANING TO CONVEY TO NIGERIA BY THAT PARAGRAPH?

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ANSWER: I THINK THAT REFERS TO THE ACTIONS WE HAVE BEEN TAKING IN AFRICA, WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, DIPLOMATICALLY WITH ALL THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND SOME OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON THIS WHOLE QUESTION WHICH THE OAU IS NOW CONSIDERING TODAY.

QUESTION: IT REFERS THEN TO PAST DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS, NOT ANYTHING IN THE FUTURE?

ANSWER: I THINK IT REFERS TO PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.
I WOULDN'T READ A LOT MORE INTO IT THAN WHAT WE HAVE
SAID MANY, MANY TIMES ABOUT OUR POSITION ON FOREIGN
INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

QUESTION: THE NIGERIANS APPARENTLY REGARD THIS PARA-
GRAPH AS A THREAT OF FUTURE INTERVENTION. WAS IT INTEND-
ED TO CONVEY THAT AT ALL?

ANSWER: I THINK THAT QUESTION REALLY IS ANSWERED IN THE
LETTER.

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QUESTION: WOULD YOU TELL US WHAT THE LARGE AREAS OF
COMMON AGREEMENT ARE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
NIGERIA?

ANSWER: I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO EXPAND BEYOND THIS
STATEMENT ON THAT SUBJECT.

4. FOLLOWING QUERIES ON OTHER TOPICS THE QUESTIONING
RETURNED TO THE U.S. STATEMENT ON NIGERIA WITH THE
FOLLOWING EXCHANGE.

QUESTION: CAN YOU AMPLIFY THE STATEMENT? IS THIS BEING
FOLLOWED UP BY ANY DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH THE NIGERIAN
GOVERNMENT?

ANSWER: WE HAVE ALSO COMMUNICATED OUR VIEWS TO THE
NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT BOTH IN LAGOS AND IN WASHINGTON.

QUESTION: WAS THAT IN THE FORM OF A PROTEST OR JUST
REPETITION OF THE STATEMENT?

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ANSWER: ALONG THE LINES OF THIS STATEMENT.

QUESTION: HOW WAS THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY HERE ADVISED.
PHONE CALL? AMBASSADOR CALLED IN ?

ANSWER: I DON'T KNOW THE MODALITIES OF IT BUT THE
MESSAGE WAS COMMUNICATED COMPLETELY AND FULLY. KISSINGER

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